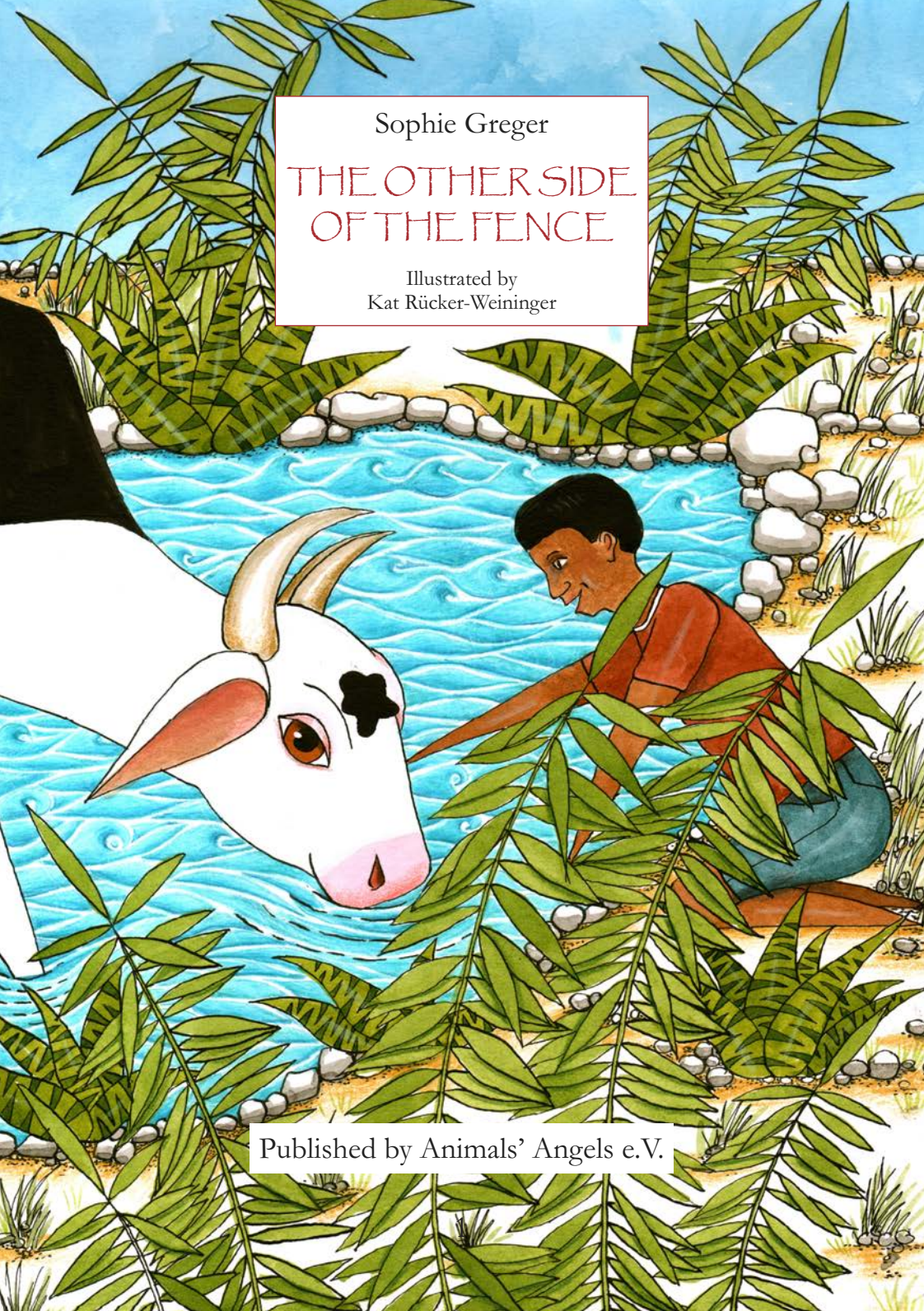




Sophie Greger

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

Illustrated by
Kat Rücker-Weinger

Published by Animals' Angels e.V.



*„Dedicated to all children.
Fly with your dreams and
be kind to all creatures.”*

**Further educational material on the protection of
‘farm’ animals: www.animals-angels.de/education**

Animals’ Angels is an internationally operating animal welfare organisation. Our work is dedicated to ‘farm’ animals and their protection. As we see the exploitation of ‘farm’ animals increasing globally, it is a heartfelt matter for us to shine a light on individual ‘farm’ animals and their needs and feelings.

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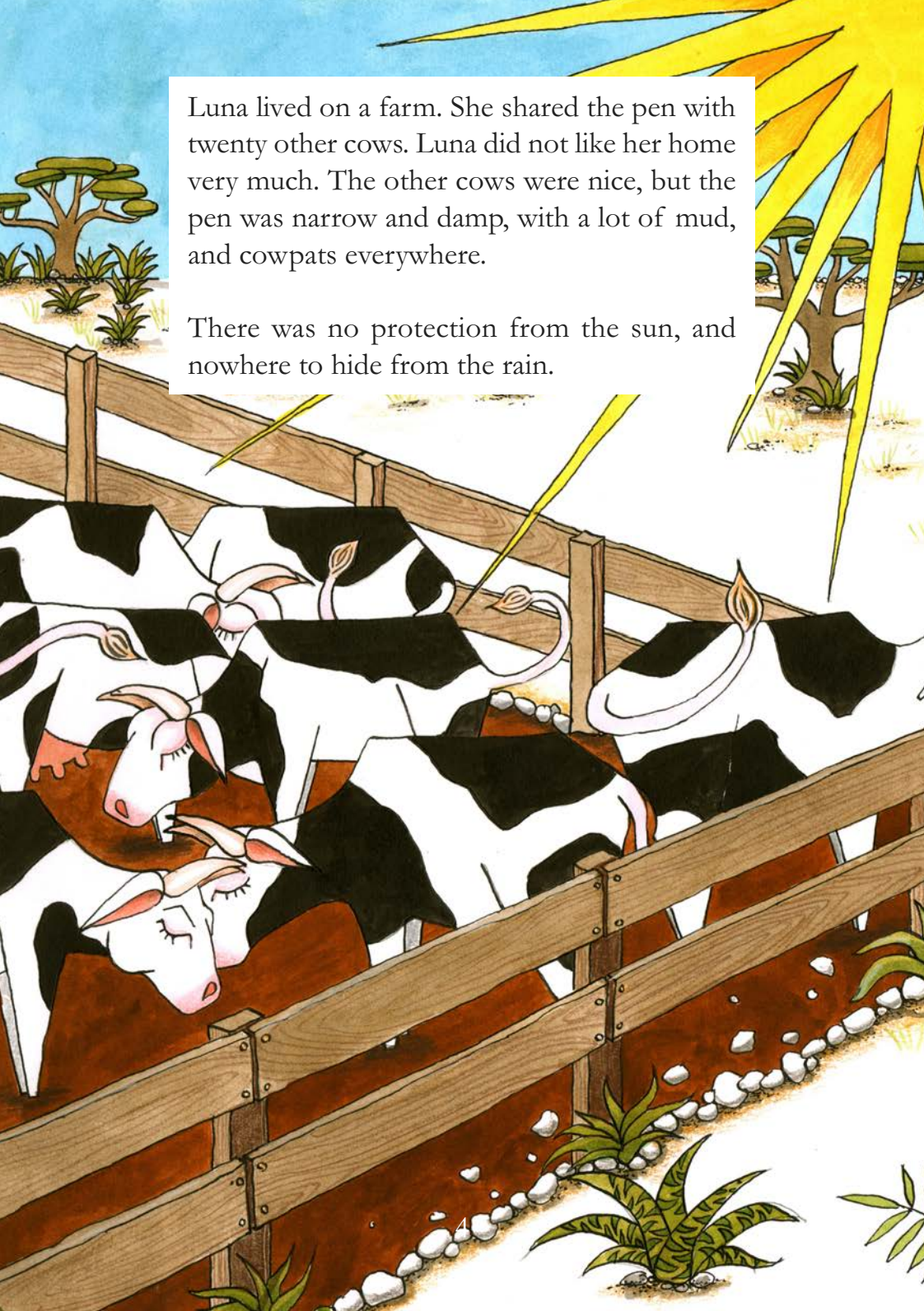
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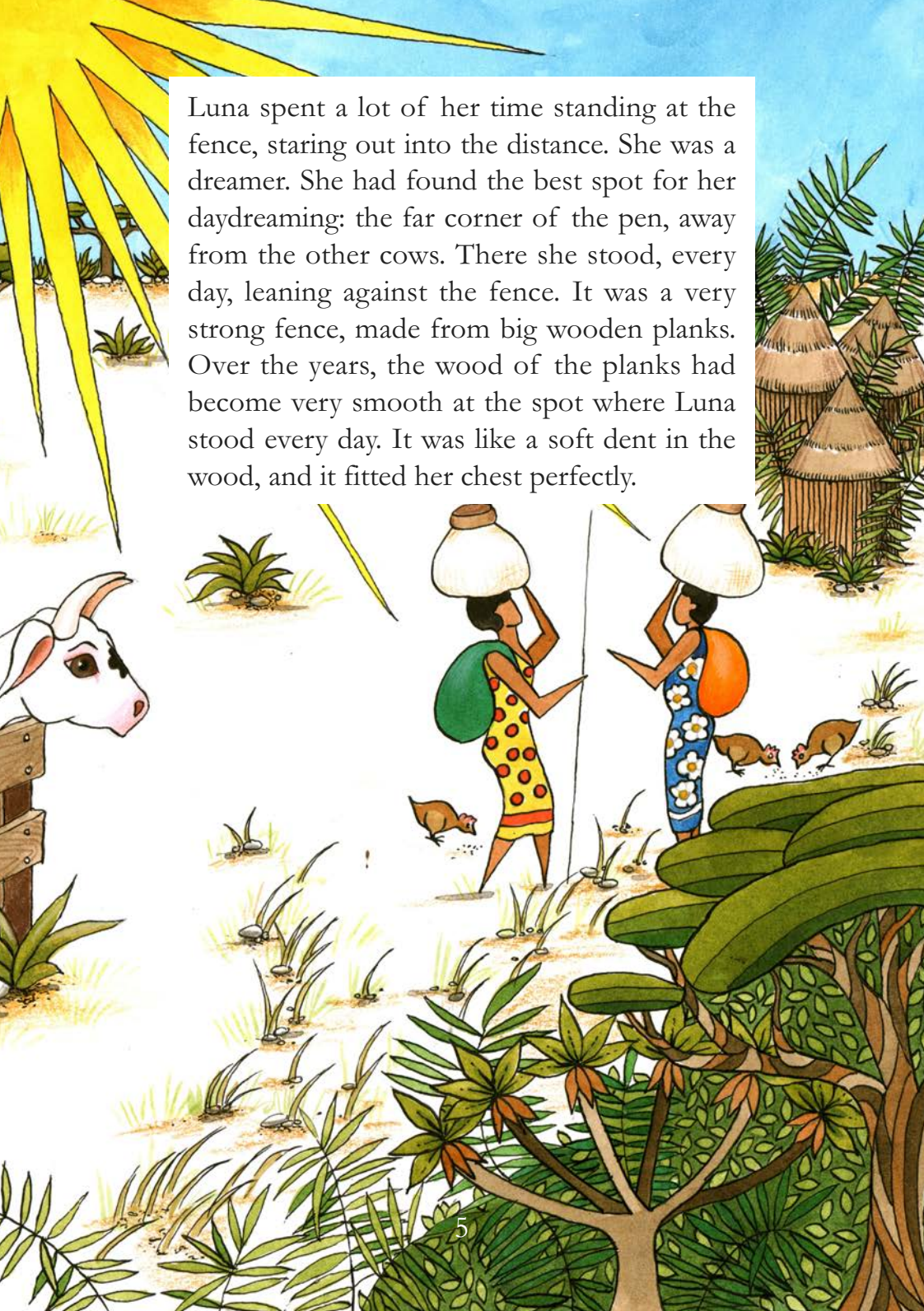
ANIMALS' ANGELS

We are There With the Animals

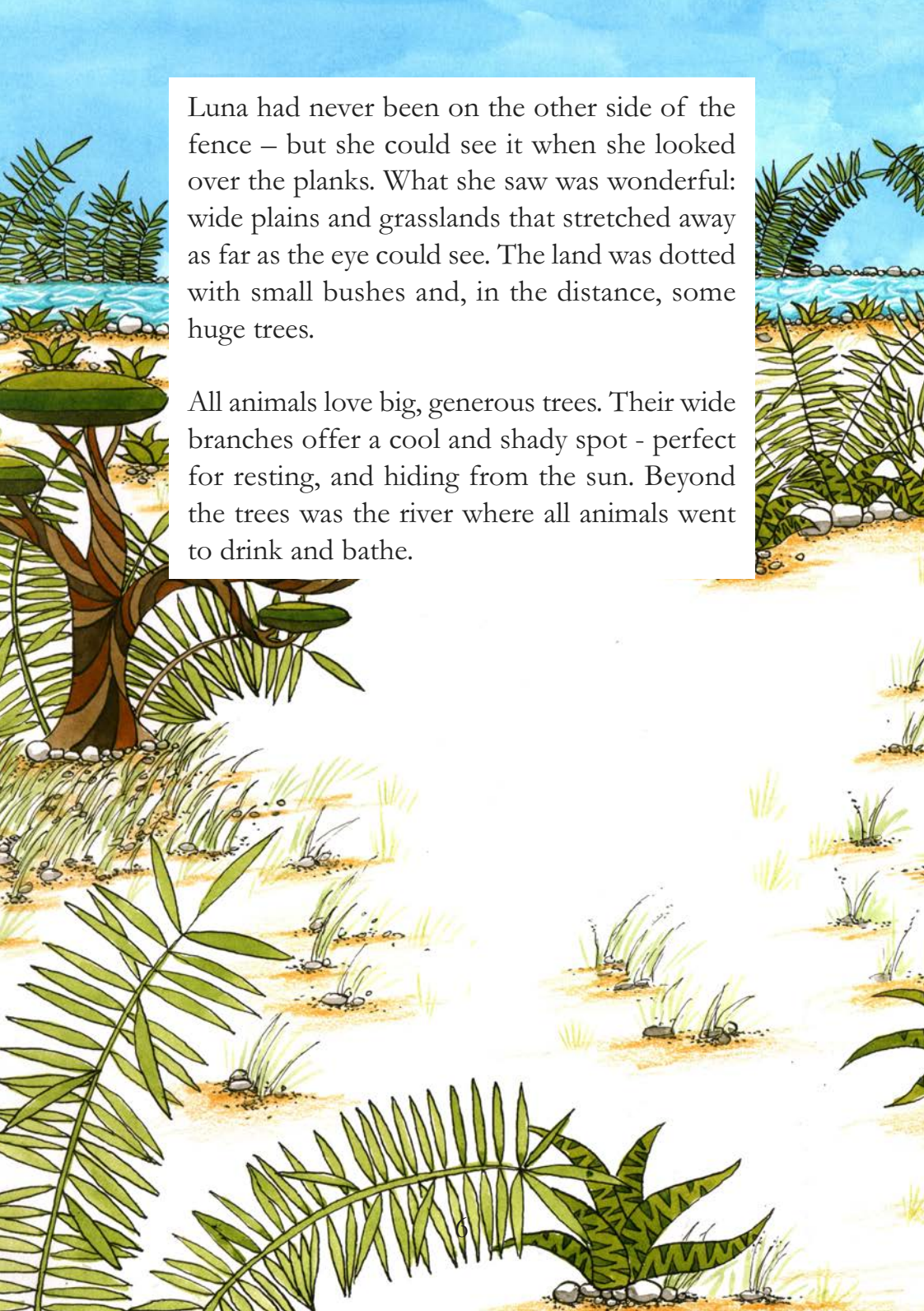
Luna lived on a farm. She shared the pen with twenty other cows. Luna did not like her home very much. The other cows were nice, but the pen was narrow and damp, with a lot of mud, and cowpats everywhere.

There was no protection from the sun, and nowhere to hide from the rain.





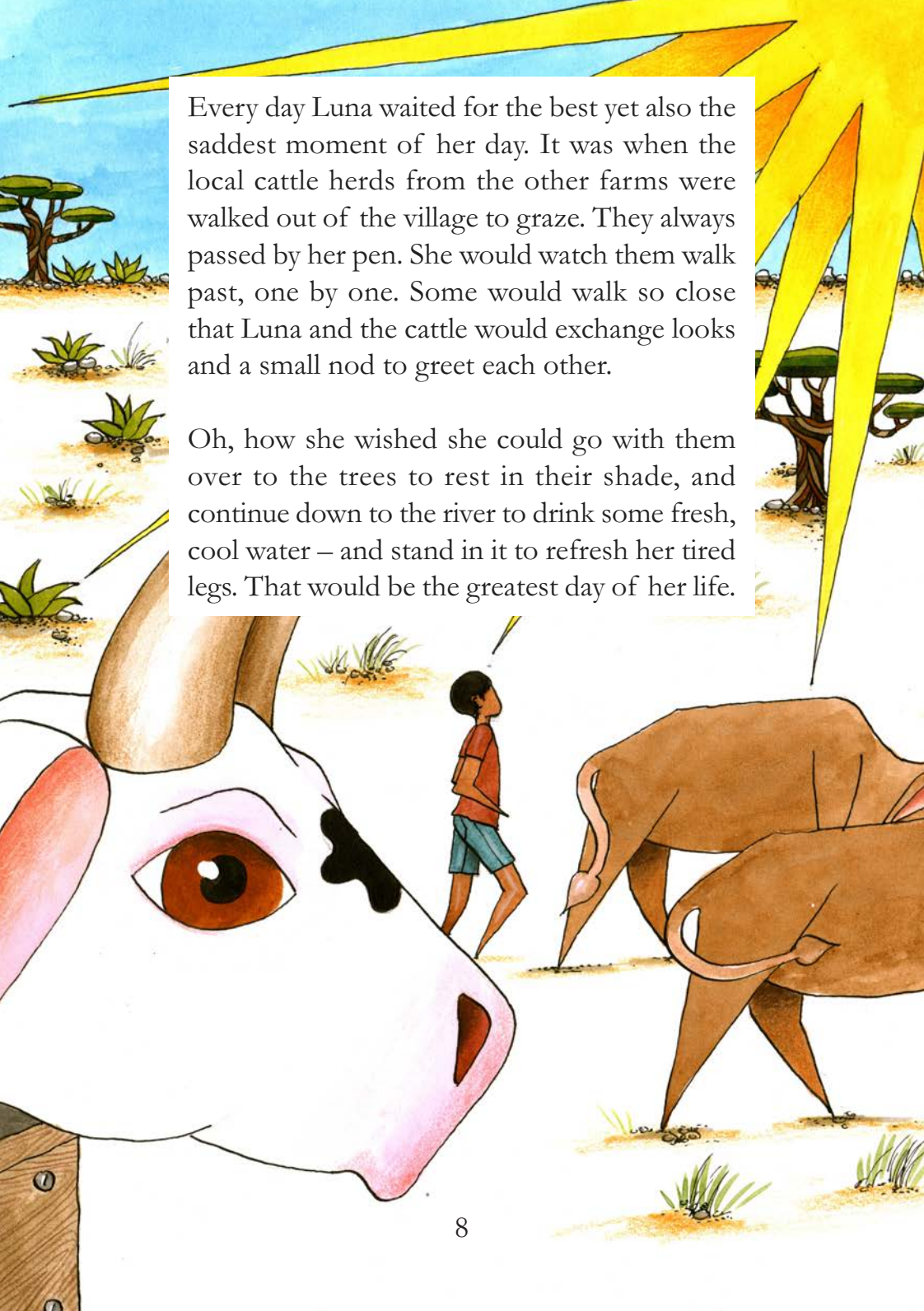
Luna spent a lot of her time standing at the fence, staring out into the distance. She was a dreamer. She had found the best spot for her daydreaming: the far corner of the pen, away from the other cows. There she stood, every day, leaning against the fence. It was a very strong fence, made from big wooden planks. Over the years, the wood of the planks had become very smooth at the spot where Luna stood every day. It was like a soft dent in the wood, and it fitted her chest perfectly.

The illustration depicts a vibrant, tropical-like landscape. In the foreground, there are large, detailed green ferns and a tree with a thick, brown, textured trunk and broad green leaves. The ground is sandy and dotted with small clumps of grass and rocks. In the background, a blue river flows under a clear blue sky. The scene is framed by more ferns and foliage on the left and right sides.

Luna had never been on the other side of the fence – but she could see it when she looked over the planks. What she saw was wonderful: wide plains and grasslands that stretched away as far as the eye could see. The land was dotted with small bushes and, in the distance, some huge trees.

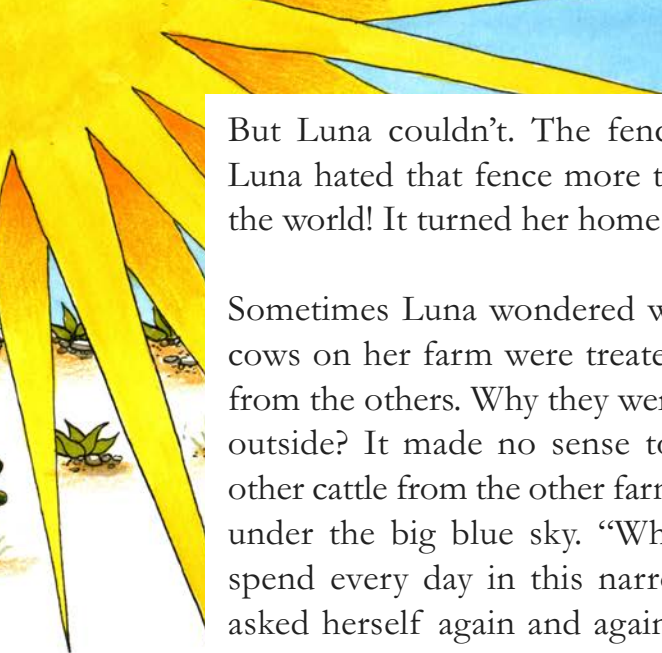
All animals love big, generous trees. Their wide branches offer a cool and shady spot - perfect for resting, and hiding from the sun. Beyond the trees was the river where all animals went to drink and bathe.





Every day Luna waited for the best yet also the saddest moment of her day. It was when the local cattle herds from the other farms were walked out of the village to graze. They always passed by her pen. She would watch them walk past, one by one. Some would walk so close that Luna and the cattle would exchange looks and a small nod to greet each other.

Oh, how she wished she could go with them over to the trees to rest in their shade, and continue down to the river to drink some fresh, cool water – and stand in it to refresh her tired legs. That would be the greatest day of her life.



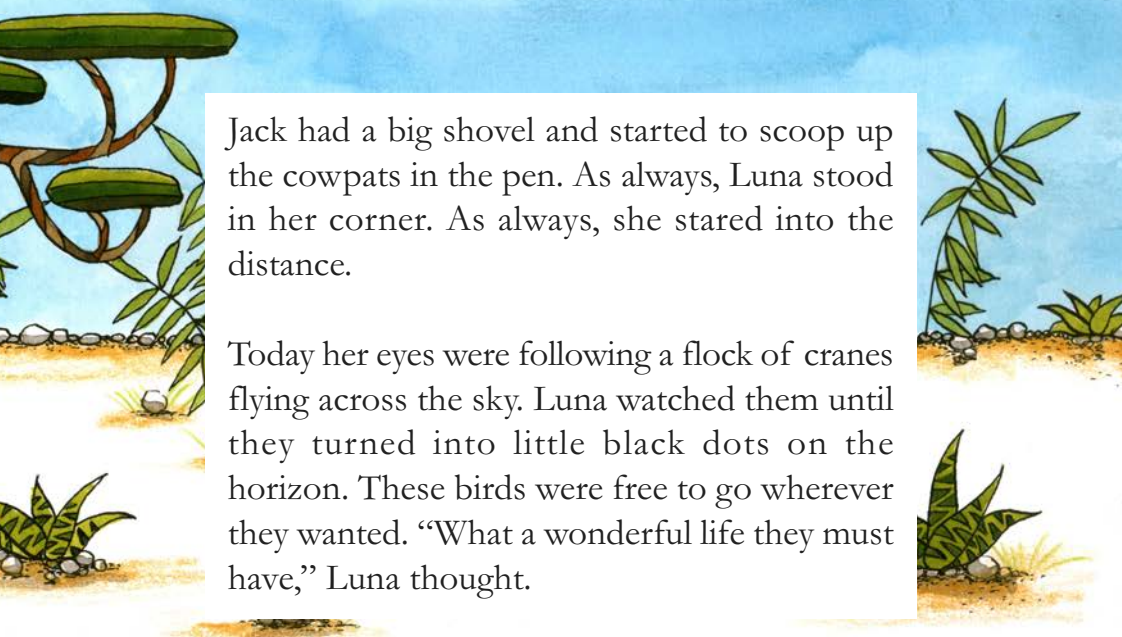
But Luna couldn't. The fence prevented it. Luna hated that fence more than anything in the world! It turned her home into a prison.

Sometimes Luna wondered why she and the cows on her farm were treated so differently from the others. Why they were never allowed outside? It made no sense to Luna. All the other cattle from the other farms walked freely, under the big blue sky. "Why do I have to spend every day in this narrow pen?" Luna asked herself again and again. "What have I done to deserve this?" It made her very sad.



Once a day, the farmer's son came to clean the pen. His name was Jack. He was a young boy who helped his father to look after their cows.



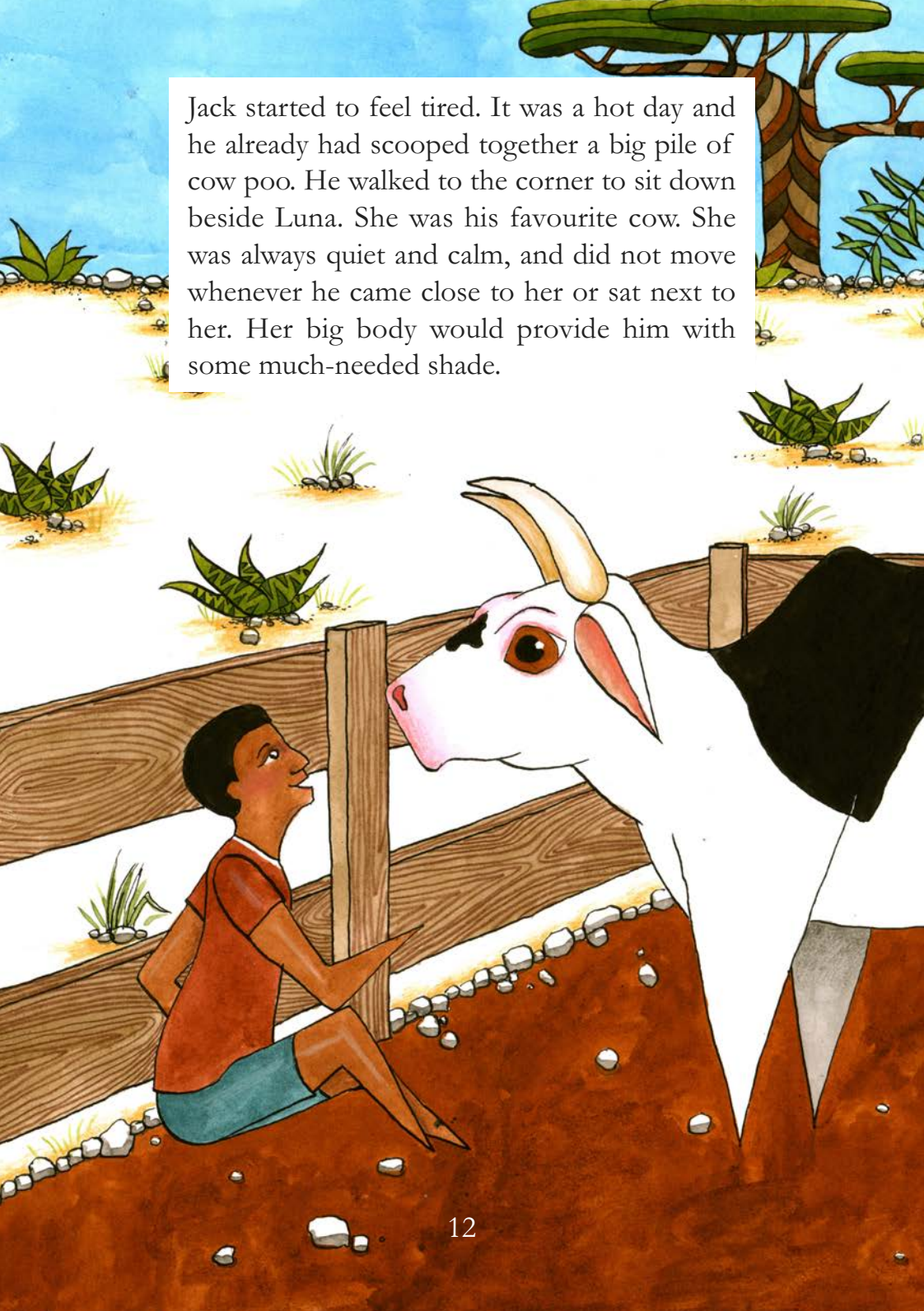


Jack had a big shovel and started to scoop up the cowpats in the pen. As always, Luna stood in her corner. As always, she stared into the distance.

Today her eyes were following a flock of cranes flying across the sky. Luna watched them until they turned into little black dots on the horizon. These birds were free to go wherever they wanted. "What a wonderful life they must have," Luna thought.



Jack started to feel tired. It was a hot day and he already had scooped together a big pile of cow poo. He walked to the corner to sit down beside Luna. She was his favourite cow. She was always quiet and calm, and did not move whenever he came close to her or sat next to her. Her big body would provide him with some much-needed shade.



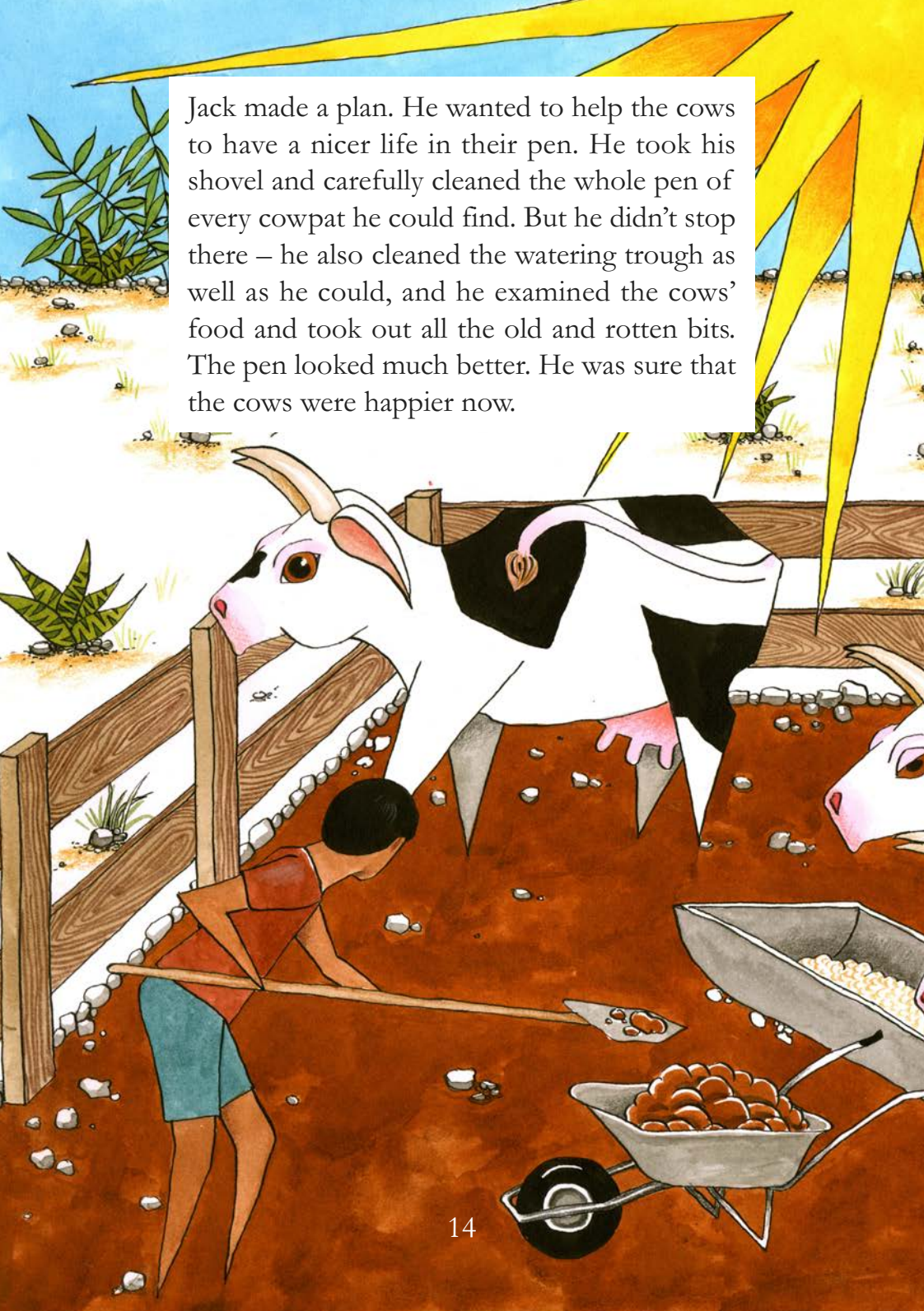


Jack sat on the ground. After a while his trousers became wet from the mud and poo he was sitting in. As his trousers slowly got soaked, it felt strange and cold. He looked over at Luna. All four of her hooves were sunk deep into the muck as well. Jack got up and realized that he could walk outside and soon his trousers would dry again - but the cows could not leave. They were spending all their life here. The muddy ground was all they had.



Jack took a closer look at Luna and the other cows. He had never realized until now just how dirty they were. And then he understood that the cows had nowhere else to sleep except the filthy floor.



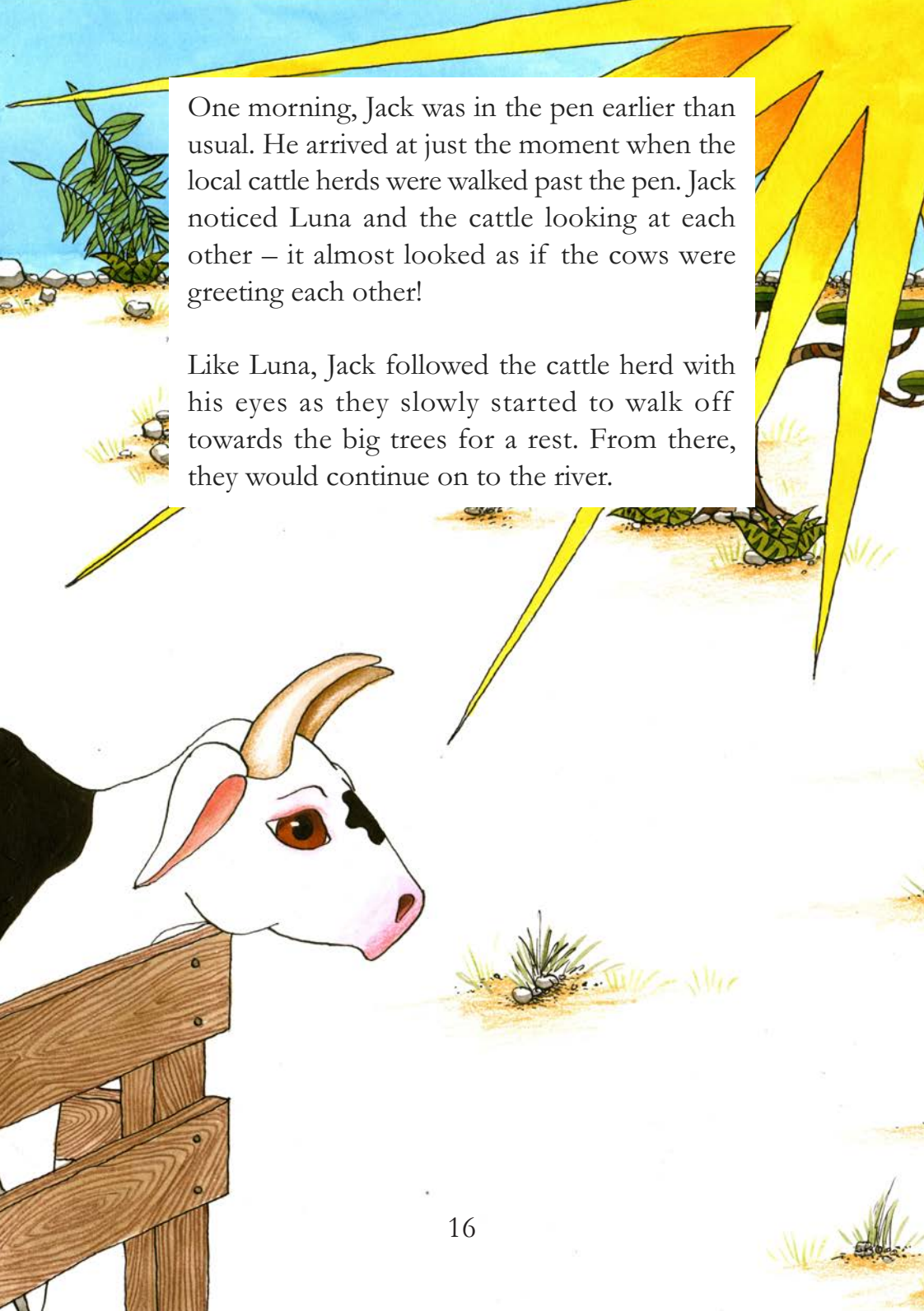


Jack made a plan. He wanted to help the cows to have a nicer life in their pen. He took his shovel and carefully cleaned the whole pen of every cowpat he could find. But he didn't stop there – he also cleaned the watering trough as well as he could, and he examined the cows' food and took out all the old and rotten bits. The pen looked much better. He was sure that the cows were happier now.



And yes, all the cows happily ate the fresh food and drank the fresh water. And because Jack kept the pen tidy and clean from now on, they all started to look better and healthier. Jack was very pleased with himself.

But he also noticed that Luna would still spend all her days in her corner. She still kept staring over the fence. Jack wondered why she still looked so sad.



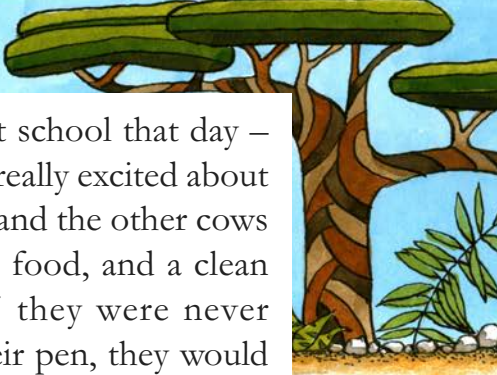
One morning, Jack was in the pen earlier than usual. He arrived at just the moment when the local cattle herds were walked past the pen. Jack noticed Luna and the cattle looking at each other – it almost looked as if the cows were greeting each other!

Like Luna, Jack followed the cattle herd with his eyes as they slowly started to walk off towards the big trees for a rest. From there, they would continue on to the river.



“Hey Jack! Are you coming?” a friendly voice yelled over to the pen. It was Jack’s friends, on their way to school. “Of course!” Jack shouted back, and ran towards them. Walking off together with them – his friend Mkuki pushing his bicycle, and his friend Didas throwing his ball - Jack looked back over his shoulder at the pen. He saw Luna, standing in her corner and watching him go in just the same way she watched the cattle every morning. Her face looked so sad that Jack started to feel uneasy.



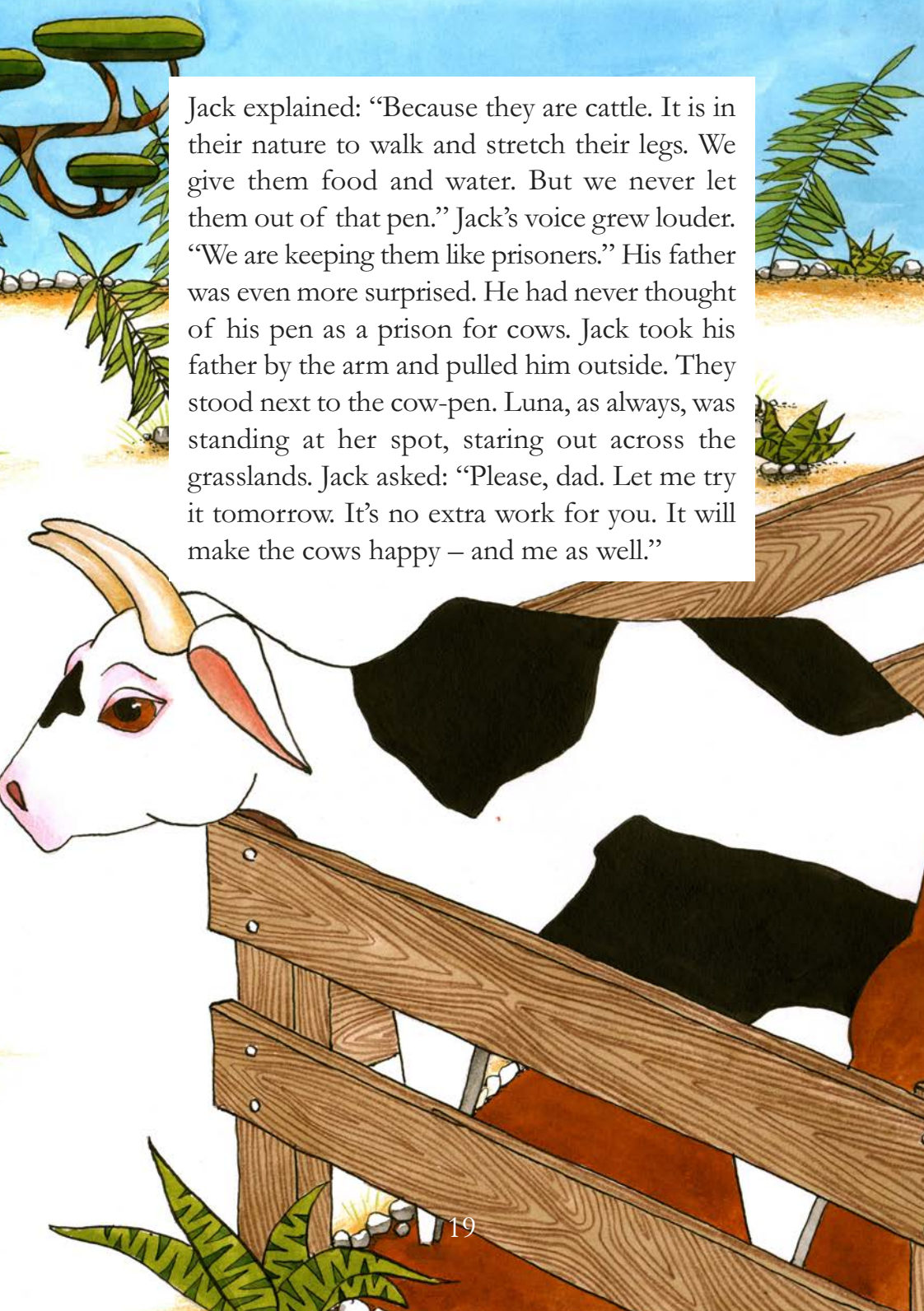


Jack couldn't concentrate at school that day – he had a new idea, and was really excited about it! He knew now that Luna and the other cows liked the fresh water, fresh food, and a clean floor in their pen. But if they were never actually allowed outside their pen, they would always keep looking sad. Jack wanted to change that. He could not wait to return home and talk to his father.

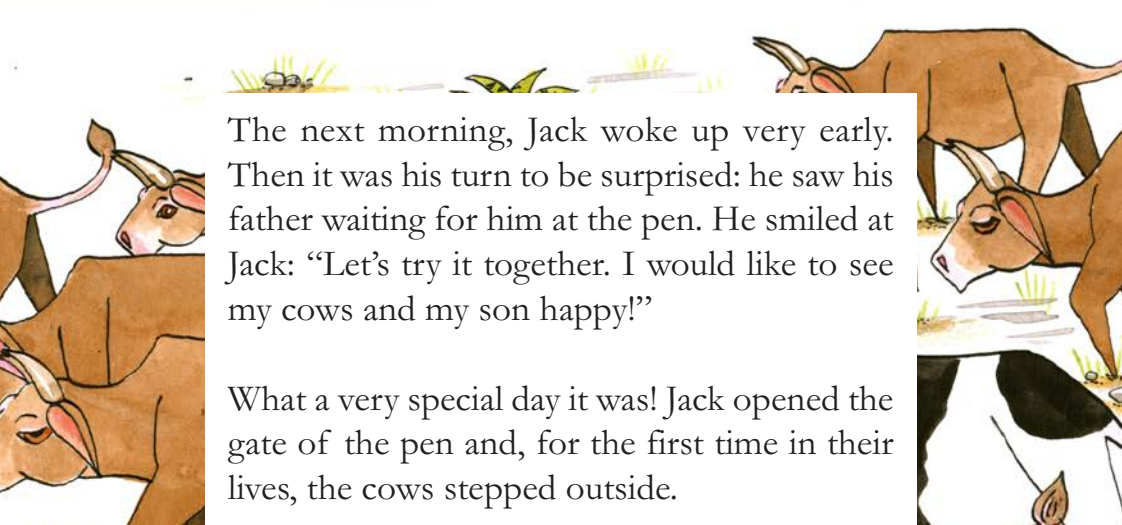


You can imagine how surprised his father was. “You want to walk the cows down to the river? Why would you want to do that?” he asked.





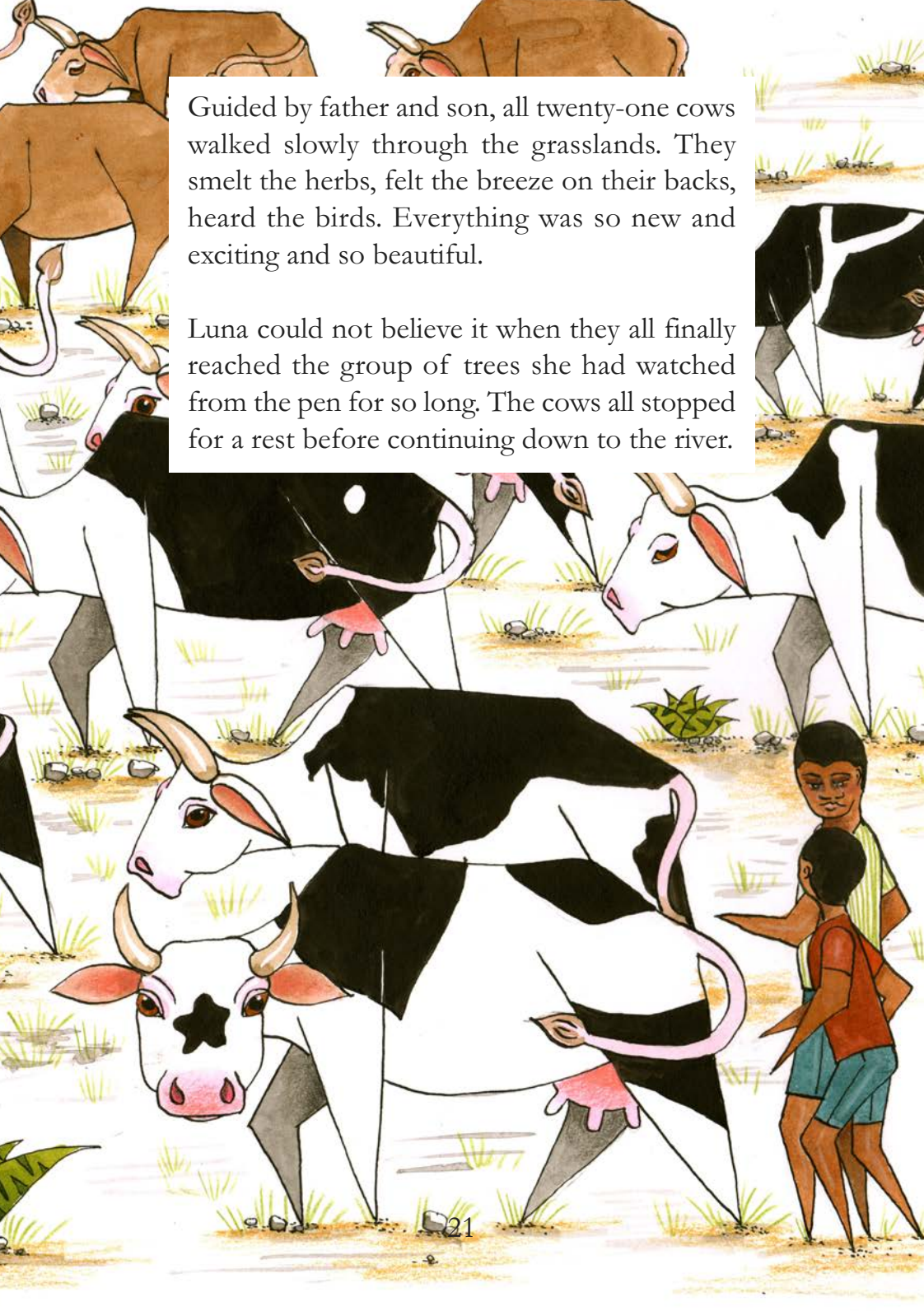
Jack explained: “Because they are cattle. It is in their nature to walk and stretch their legs. We give them food and water. But we never let them out of that pen.” Jack’s voice grew louder. “We are keeping them like prisoners.” His father was even more surprised. He had never thought of his pen as a prison for cows. Jack took his father by the arm and pulled him outside. They stood next to the cow-pen. Luna, as always, was standing at her spot, staring out across the grasslands. Jack asked: “Please, dad. Let me try it tomorrow. It’s no extra work for you. It will make the cows happy – and me as well.”

An illustration showing several brown cows in the background. One cow is partially visible on the left, another in the center, and a third on the right. They are standing in a field with some green grass and small rocks.

The next morning, Jack woke up very early. Then it was his turn to be surprised: he saw his father waiting for him at the pen. He smiled at Jack: "Let's try it together. I would like to see my cows and my son happy!"

What a very special day it was! Jack opened the gate of the pen and, for the first time in their lives, the cows stepped outside.



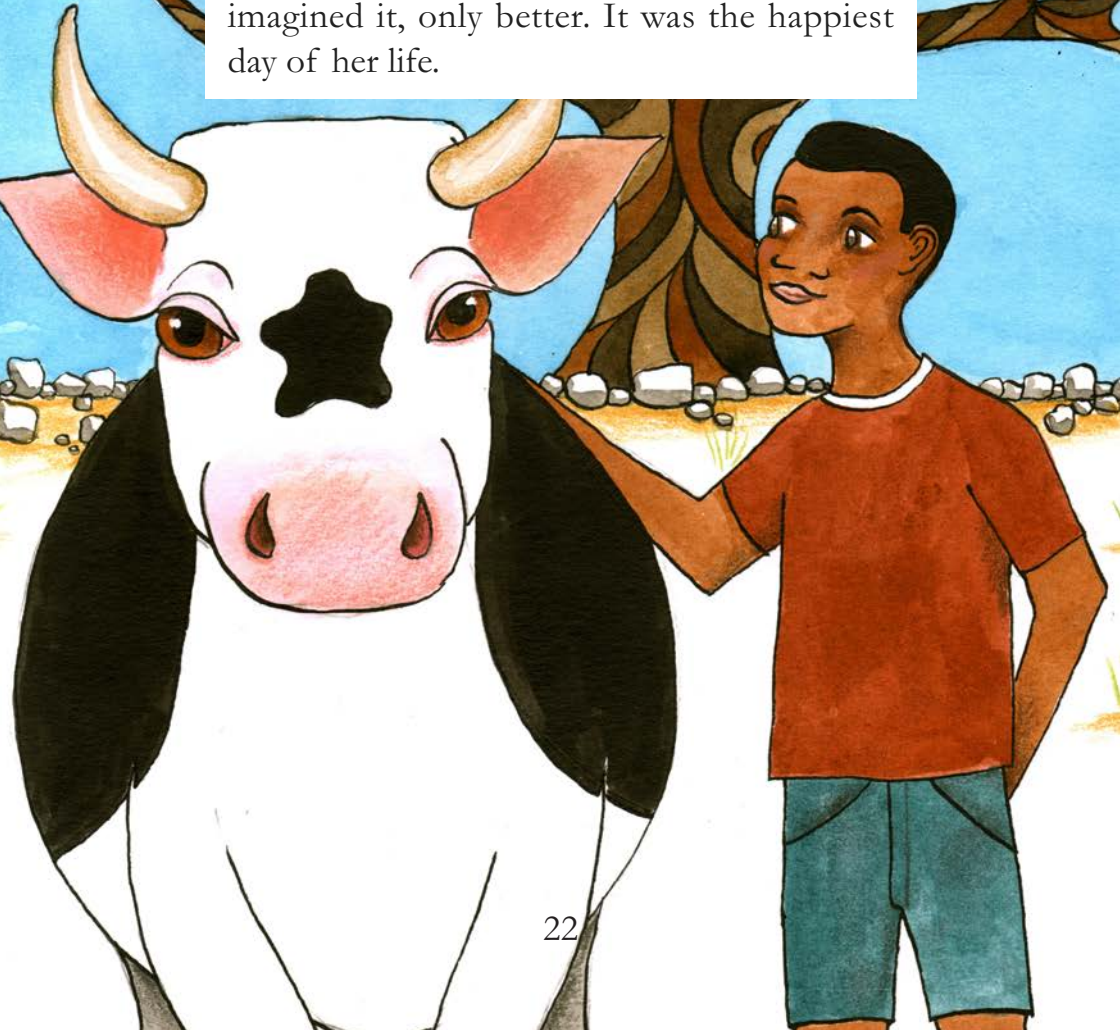
The illustration depicts a herd of cows in a grassy field. In the top left, two brown cows are visible. The central text box is overlaid on the scene. Below the text, several black and white cows are shown. In the bottom right corner, two young boys are walking towards the cows. The page number '21' is located at the bottom center.

Guided by father and son, all twenty-one cows walked slowly through the grasslands. They smelt the herbs, felt the breeze on their backs, heard the birds. Everything was so new and exciting and so beautiful.

Luna could not believe it when they all finally reached the group of trees she had watched from the pen for so long. The cows all stopped for a rest before continuing down to the river.

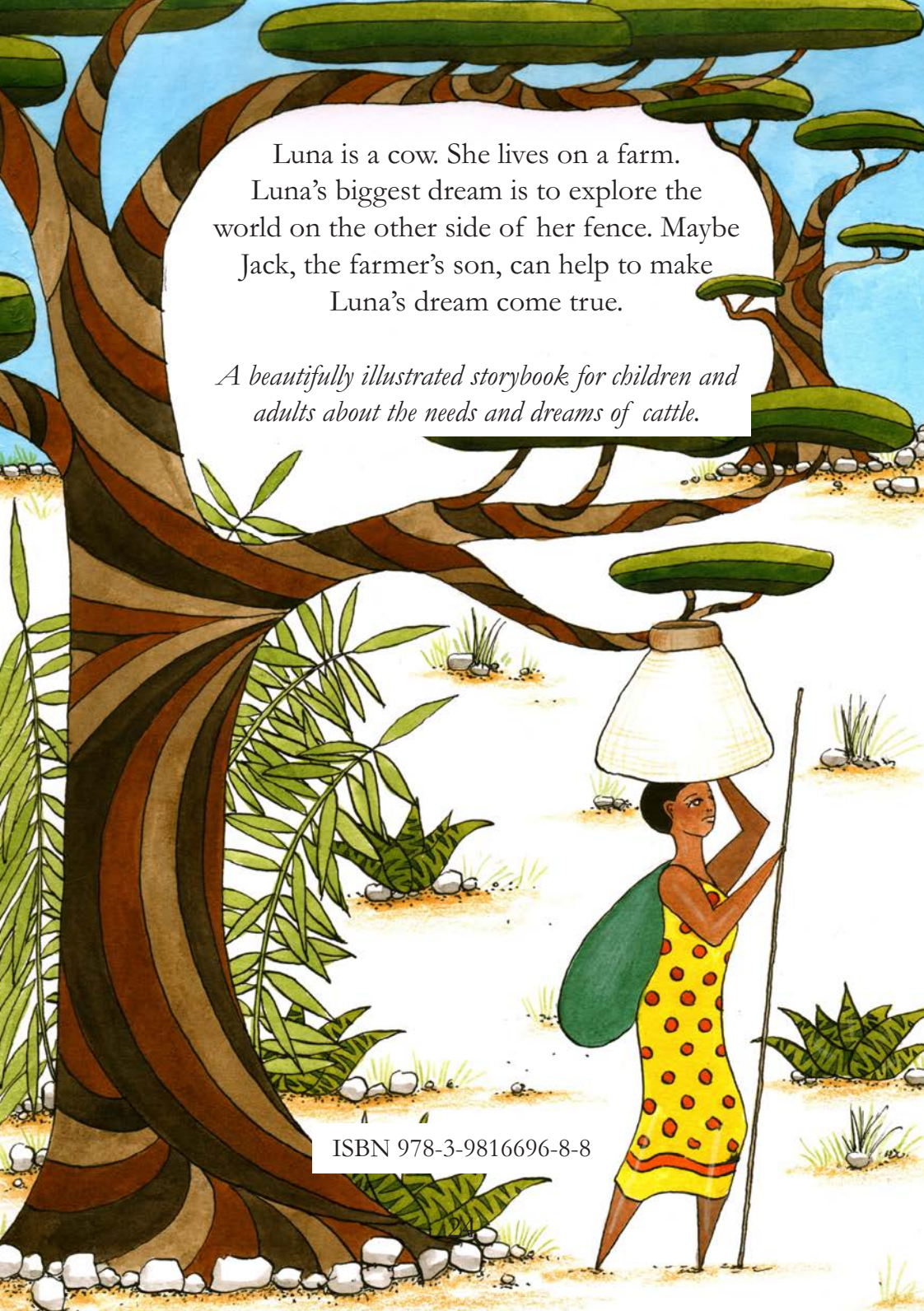
On their way down to the river, Jack walked beside Luna. He came up very close to her and said quietly: "I'm sorry, Luna. I'm sorry it took me so long to try to see the world through your eyes. From now on, I will try to make you happy - you and the other cows."

Luna did not know what to say. But she felt that her sadness had gone. She could already see the river. It was like she had always imagined it, only better. It was the happiest day of her life.





The End.



Luna is a cow. She lives on a farm.
Luna's biggest dream is to explore the
world on the other side of her fence. Maybe
Jack, the farmer's son, can help to make
Luna's dream come true.

*A beautifully illustrated storybook for children and
adults about the needs and dreams of cattle.*

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